DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Communicable Disease Center
Enteric Bacteriology Laboratories
P. O. Box 185
Chamblee, Georgia

November 17, 1955

Dr. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

Many thanks for your letter of November 8. I wonder if Difco SIM medium transformed to a plating medium by addition of agar might not be used to select for H_2S production? I think bismuth sulfite would be too sensitive.

Don't worry about the paper. Anyway I'm not convinced that I should have any part in it. When it is written could the S. abortus equi culture which is now a typical 4,5,12: a-e,n,x be mentioned? There is no doubt in my mind that 5 antigen and the property of phase variation were transferred to this culture.

Please read the first sentence in "Discussion" on the 1,w phage paper in J. Bact. Kauffmann is very irked with me about this, saying there is no difference in our results and his in spite of the fact that he observed transduction of 2 properties (motility and antigens) with phage of 10^7 titre, whereas we could not transduce a single property with phages of less than 5×10^9 titre. I am sorry he feels as he does but I still think the symbiotic phages like those he used and PLT22 are more efficient agents than the other phages we used. We had a most difficult time once we branched out from PLT22.

Try solid SIM medium with replica plating and if necessary let the plates lay for 2 to 3 days at room temperature after overnight incubation. I think it might work.

Kindest regards and best wishes to you and Esther.

Sincerely,

P. R. Edwards